#### For More Information

For more information on how to request an advisory opinion, please contact the State Ethics Commission.

(404) 463-1980

Or

Visit our website

www.ethics.ga.gov

#### **Brochure Disclaimer**

This brochure is intended as a general reference tool and in no way supersedes statutory law or rules promulgated by the State Ethics Commission.

The State Ethics Commission recommends a complete reading of the campaign finance laws contained in the Ethics Government Act and the Commission Rules.

Both are available on our website.

Address Correction Required

State Ethics Commission 200 Piedmont Avenue Suite 1402 - West Tower Atlanta, GA 30334

[STREET ADDRESS] [ADDRESS 2]

CITY, ST ZIP CODE



### **Advisory Opinion**

#### **Quick Facts**

#### **Brochure**



- Request an Advisory Opinion Staff Drafts Advisory Opinion
- Review
- Staff Presents Advisory **Opinion to Commission** 
  - Commission Reviews Advisory Opinion



- Commission Approves and **Issues Advisory Opinion**
- State Ethics Commission **Publishes Advisory Opinion**

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#### Introduction

This brochure answers questions about how individuals may seek guidance from the State Ethics Commission by requesting advisory opinions. An advisory opinion is an official Commission response to a question related to the application of Georgia's campaign finance laws.

## Who may request an advisory opinion?

Any person may request an advisory opinion from the Commission concerning the application of campaign finance laws to a specific transaction or activity based on a real or hypothetical set of circumstances.

## Must an advisory opinion request follow a certain format?

Yes. Advisory opinion requests must be in writing and signed by the individual requesting the opinion.

## Can anyone comment on an advisory opinion?

Any interested persons may comment on pending requests for an Advisory Opinion. Public comments are accepted via mail, hand delivery, email, and facsimile or by using the Online Comment Form available on our website.

Comments submitted may be made available for public viewing after approval by the State Ethics Commission.

## <u>Is there a statutory deadline for</u> <u>issuing an advisory opinion?</u>

Yes. The Commission must render an advisory opinion within 60 days of receiving the written request for the advisory opinion.

# Who actually issues the advisory opinion?

The staff of the State Ethics Commission drafts AOs, which are then presented to the Commissioners for their consideration. Once approved, the Commission issues the AO.

# Once issued are advisory opinions made available to the public?

Yes. The Commission must publish a summary of the opinion. Advisory opinions are available on the State Ethics Commission's website. Advisory opinions are listed by year followed by subject.